

The Fort Erie Times

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Thursday, December 31, 2015

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

John Fulton, the Surfing Santa, made his 31st annual Niagara River crossing between Fort Erie and Buffalo last Wednesday. For the full story, see page 2.

Mark Lalama Trio
with Marc Jordan
& Whitney Pea

JAN 3

The Tartan Terrors

JAN 25

Alan Doyle
& The Beautiful Gypsies

JAN 27

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St. Catharines

Smooth ride for Surfing Santa

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

It was a smooth ride for Surfing Santa, who made his 31st annual trek across the Niagara River from Canada to the U.S. and back on a stand-up paddleboard last Wednesday afternoon.

Surfing Santa, who is better known to his family and friends as John Fulton, makes the journey each year "for one very important reason."

"I draw attention to poverty and homelessness across the region," he said to a small crowd of approximately 30 people, including his family, friends, spectators and media.

Fulton encourages anyone who comes out to watch him navigate the water between Fort Erie and Buffalo, N.Y. to donate socks, underwear and toiletries which he would distribute to local homeless shelters.

"We gather socks, underwear, women's bras and toiletries for the homeless population living in the area. Those are items that are not typically donated that are in the highest demand."

According to Fulton, 20 per cent of the homeless popu-

lation in Canada are people ages 16 to 24.

"At any given time, there are 50,000 people living on the streets," he explained.

Last Wednesday, Fulton arrived at Mather Arch at the Niagara River Parkway driving a small truck with his trailer full of gear in tow. He greeted the small crowd before entering the water just after 11:30 a.m.

With the temperature at 16°C, Fulton said it was one of the warmest rides he's ever taken across the river in December.

"The idea (for Surfing Santa) came to (him)," when he was running a wind surfing school at Sherkston Shores with his brother.

"(The idea) popped into my head and on one cold, frigid winter day, unlike today, I went out (on the water). I borrowed a Santa suit that was in an heirloom chest that never got returned."

He has made the journey each year, in rain, sleet or snow, on a wind surfer or stand-up paddleboard since 1985.



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

John Fulton took photos with spectators before he made his annual journey across the Niagara River last Wednesday.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

BABIES OF 2015 BLESSED EVENTS

Joshua David Huzarski
January 6, 2015

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FORT ERIE CONSERVATION CLUB GENERAL MEETING

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John Fulton made his 31st annual Niagara River crossing between Fort Erie, Ont. and Buffalo, N.Y. last Wednesday.

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES



John Fulton made his 31st annual Niagara River crossing between Fort Erie, Ont. and Buffalo, N.Y. last Wednesday.

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The
Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Happy New Year

It has been a busy and exciting year for Fort Erie, and with the community about to ring in the New Year, now is the time to reflect on all the events that have taken place in this past year. We've now had a full year of our current municipal government, which was elected in October, 2014 with four first-time councillors and a new mayor. We also elected a new MPP, NDP representative Wayne Gates in the fall of 2014, and he too has completed a year of his term. This year, we saw the closure of Ridgeway Public School and we wait patiently as the new school, which will combine students from Ridgeway, Crystal Beach and Bertie Public School student when it opens its doors for the first time in September.

After many years of debate, Fort Erie's new high school, which will join students from Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, is now well underway and will be completed in time for September 2017.

A dedicated group of volunteers are working tirelessly to ensure enough funds are raised to see a new state-of-the-art theatre will be constructed inside the new high school.

We watched as the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils went

on to win a second high school football championship.

We have wonderful BIAs that work hard to improve our community's downtown areas. It's hard not to notice all of the excitement and activity that is happening on Jarvis Street. We look forward to all of the wonderful events hosted by the Bridgeburg BIA that will bring more foot traffic to Jarvis Street once again.

We continue to watch, on a provincial level, our MPP Wayne Gates, who is an outspoken advocate for this riding. He continues to warn of the economic consequences of selling off Hydro One. He continues, with politicians of all parties and levels, to push to bring GO service to Niagara year-round. He has also supported the Fort Erie Race Track, the Fort Erie speedway proposal, and local farmers, wineries and craft brewers.

With each passing year, the choices that we make shape our community, and with some of the decisions that have been made, Fort Erie's future looks bright. To our readers - happy new year to you all, and don't forget to share your news with us - we look forward to hearing it and passing it along to your friends and neighbours in the weeks to come.

Do you remember?



Last week's photo shows boy scouts welcoming a visit from Santa in 1981 had no calls come in for it. If you know anyone in it we would love to hear from you, it is never too late to call in. This week's photo sure looks like an older New Year's baby! If you recognize this adorable little boy, or can tell us why this photo appeared in the paper, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us museum@forterie.on.ca



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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published. Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words. Submit your letters via e-mail to: sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Record-setting year for mitten, hat and scarf fundraiser

Imagine 1,946 mittens, toeques and scarves to keep children and teens toasty, and 864 new books to warm their hearts!

That is the record just set for the number of items that the Fort Erie Public Library has collected on the mitten trees and in the book baskets, which have been put out every year since 1991.

Donations of new hand-made or purchased hats, mittens and scarves are matched with brand new books for children in need in our community as a



holiday gift. Then they are sorted, wrapped, packed and shared with the young people in time for the holidays. The lovely donations of hats, knitters, home sewers, library patrons and service clubs. Special thanks go out to everyone who stopped

for a moment this busy holiday season to ensure that a book or knitted item appeared on the library's trees.

For many years, this work has been undertaken in partnership with the Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie. Recently, members of Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Anglican Church have begun helping with collecting, and the Friends of the Fort Erie Public Library accepted ribbons and wrappings as the items were prepared for the

Kinsmen Gift of Love, the Salvation Army, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. George's Roman Catholic Church and other local groups.

If you or someone you love received an e-reader or tablet from Santa this year, the library can help you make the most of it. Hoopla, Overdrive and Freeding are three services available free from the library website, www.fepc.ca, under the Downloads tab. All you need is your library card, a web browser, smart phone or tablet to get started.

Hoopla is a revolutionary digital service which is simple to access and use for movies, ebooks and audiobooks. Overdrive offers over 45,000 ebooks and audiobooks, and Freeding gives access to non-fiction titles and books for kids and teens, and a growing collection of fiction titles. There is even assistance, if you need it, to get started. Staff members can offer quick help, and appointments may be made with our systems administrator, Michael Schell for one-on-one time to

answer your questions, including training or troubleshooting.

There are Pasta Dinner tickets available at all branches of the library, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Fort Erie Public Library and the special projects they take on to enhance everyone's library experience.

All branches of the library will be closed all day on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

Bisons are 'majestic looking animals'

Drive to Point Abino in Fort Erie and you would have seen it.

Seen what?

The Buffalo bison, of course. A life size replica of the American bison is on the front lawn of a summer resident.

However, as of Nov. 21, it had fallen over on its side. Extreme wind bursts knocked it over. Please see my photo taken in October.

What do you know about this animal?

They once measured in the millions a few hundred years ago on our interior plains of North America. They were found from Alaska down to Northern Mexico.

Amazing.

Think big. These are large animals. They can measure from seven to 11 feet long and from 660 pounds to 2,200 pounds.

During the last few decades of the 1800s over 3 million were destroyed. By 1900, only 400 remained. This mass killing threatened the existence of the bison but also brought to an end the way of life to many Native Americans.

Sad times.

Our fallen bison is not coloured but white.

Bisons, I believe, are majestic looking animals.

They have chestnut brown hair. They have longer, darker hair around their head, shoulders and chest. They have a pair of upward curved horns. They all have a large



shoulder hump. Writer's note: On our family trip west across Canada some years ago we saw several bison at Wood Buffalo Park, Alberta. In the U.S. there are hundreds at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Buffalo and bison are different animals.

I have relatives in Buffalo, N.Y. We see the Buffalo Bills play. As youths, friend Charlie McMillan and I watched many times the Triple A Buffalo Bisons play hardball at Offerman Ball Park. Those two names, Buffalo and Bison, have been on the Niagara Frontier for a long time.

Note: The Point Abino bison is inside as of Nov. 30. Maybe next Spring he will reappear. I hope so.

"It's over!" For some seven years we paced off the fields on the west side of Gorham Road.

Why? We were measuring the growth of the alien plant, the Purple Loosestrife. This aggressive plant chokes out valuable plants like cat-tails. My first measure-



ment was only 20 paces. Then in subsequent years my grandchildren Jackie and Jage Noble helped me.

In those seven years.

Jage finally counted 760 paces! The "Purple Plaque" had taken over! Then a huge building developer arrived. The land was changed forever

and so was the destruction of most of the Purple loosestrife.

Yes, it's still around in the Town's ditch in 2015 and will be in 2016!

Best wishes for the New Year. Enjoy nature more!

Earl Plato is a resident of Fort Erie, local historian and nature lover.

555-555-5555

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Summer Student Employment – 2016

Competition No. 52-2015 The Corporation is now accepting applications for student employment opportunities in the **summer of 2016**. You must be attending a post-secondary institution.

Returning students MUST apply. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.town.forterie.ca/>, go to Government, then Employment, click on Summer Student and complete the on-line application. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. Friday, January 22, 2016.** We will conduct interviews in February 2016.

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ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS



Residents are reminded that **no overnight winter parking** is permitted in the Town of Fort Erie between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November 1 through March 31 of the following year. The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing Traffic By-law No. 84-2014. **The fine for this offence is \$40.00 and in addition, your vehicle may be towed at your expense.**



MIKE DEBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORKS

James Morden school in Niagara Falls kicked off its Project SHARE holiday food drive, in this file photo. Helping start off the drive are Jordan Mackenzie, left, Nancy King, Jacklynn Deforest, and Gavin Rolls. Columnist Rhonda Barron says that in addition to contributing to food banks, our society needs to get to the root causes of poverty that force people to use them.

Charity alone won't solve hunger crisis

Food banks may ease hunger, but they are far from ending it.

On the heels of the Food Bank Report, the giving season swings into full force. No disrespect to food banks, but while the army of volunteers and staff who support these institutions need to be commended for their big hearts and hard work, we need to recognise that charity alone will



never solve the hunger crisis.
If we are promoting
charity we must promote

social justice. Yes, ask for donations, but use these "asks" as an opportunity to increase awareness of the root causes of hunger.

People go to the food bank because they don't have enough money for food. Eliminate poverty and we can dispense with food drives and food banks. Everyone is happier, especially those who have no option but to turn to food banks for a meal.

The Food Bank Report makes some recommendations on what needs to happen if we want to end the war on hunger.

There's a call for a basic income guarantee to replace provincial social assistance programs and an increase in the availability of safe, affordable housing — two policies that have the potential to reverse the 30-year trend of food bank charity.

So what's stopping us?
Mike Balkwill from the Put
Food in the Budget campaign
says: "It's not about the facts.
If it were about the facts we
would have done something
by now."

Ultimately, it's about firmly held ideologies. The belief that if individuals just worked a little harder, say like their successful counterparts, they could pull themselves out of the hole they found themselves in.

It is precisely this kind of thinking that allows the evidence to pile up while our neighbours are lining up, for food.

Please don't forget to give this holiday season, but don't forget why people are hungry in the first place.

And remember, the best way to give is by supporting policies that will put an end to poverty.

Rhonda Barron is a health promoter at the Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie.

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**2016
New Year
Holiday**

So that our employees and ourselves may be able to enjoy the holidays with our families, we will be practicing the following hours during the Christmas Holiday

Thursday December 31, 2015 OPEN 8-4
Friday January 1, 2016 CLOSED
Saturday January 2, 2016
Car Sales Only OPEN 9-4

We will be resuming our regular business hours on Monday, January 4, 2016.
We would like to take this opportunity, on the behalf of our staff and ourselves, to wish you and your family **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year**
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Sherman Zavitz shares tales of Niagara Falls

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

Historian Sherman Zavitz has a new book that is sure to interest people who want to know more about Niagara's rich past.

It looks completely different from any of his previous books and is published by Grey Borden, a company from Niagara Falls.

The book, which is a collection of 45 stories that originally appeared in his previous books and is titled *It Seemed As If 100 Men Were Pounding My Head*.

Because the book is a collection of former newspaper articles that deal with subjects from the past, the publisher thought it would be an interesting idea to create a book that has the appearance of an old newspaper.

Zavitz said the title comes from a quote by Peter Nissen, which is one of the stories in the book.

In 1900, and again in 1901, Nissen shot the Whirlpool Rapids in a special craft or boat that he had designed. He thought the trip would be a fairly easy one, but he underestimated things and the trip



MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Falls historian Sherman Zavitz with his new book *It Seemed As If 100 Men Were Pounding My Head*. The book is a collection of 45 stories that originally appeared in the Niagara Falls Review.

was extremely hard on him and his boat," said Zavitz, a retired school teacher who is also the official historian for the City of Niagara Falls.

Nissen thought he could start a business giving tours on going through the rapids.

"He gave up on the idea after he realized it was much too dangerous. After his first trip through the rapids in the whirlpool and he was finally able to get back on shore that was one of the things he said about the trip that it felt like 100 men were pounding his head with giant

hammers," said Zavitz.

This book is much along the same lines as one of his earlier books titled *It Happened At Niagara*, which was a collection of 78 stories that had originally all appeared in the *Niagara Falls Review*. His other books include *The Niagara River: The Ontario Shore and Then & Now: Niagara Falls*.

When trying to decide which stories should go into this book, Zavitz said he tried to pick a variety of topics including daredevils, romance and special people who might have

visited Niagara Falls over the years and in some way left their mark on the city or wrote about their experience.

"Some people might have lived here or somewhere else in the country and they were a part of a great adventure," said Zavitz.

One such individual was Thomas Macklem, who lived in Chippawa and took part in the Red River Expedition, and Alexander Graham Bell and his wife, who spent their honeymoon in Niagara Falls in 1877.

He also wrote about the *Griffin*, the 17th-century sailing ship that was built by the French explorer La Salle and was constructed in what is now Niagara Falls, NY.

"It was the first sailing ship in the Upper Great Lakes and it was to be used as a trading ship. It did sail into the Upper Great Lakes and then it vanished. The ship and the crew were never heard from again," said Zavitz.

He also makes mention of the Edmonton Grads, the greatest Canadian women's basketball team in history, that once played an exhibition game at Stamford College in 1930.

"They were a remarkable team. Over the years they played a total of 522 games in Canada, the United States and Europe. They played both men's and women's teams and out of the 522 games they won 502. That's an incredible

record," said Zavitz.

His book can be purchased for \$15 at Niagara Falls Public Library on Victoria Avenue and at Niagara Falls History Museum on Ferry Street.

tony.ricciuto@summedia.ca

Help for animals in need



FORT ERIE SPCA/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Sandy Macnamara, a Fort Erie SPCA employee, stands beside all of the donations the shelter received during the holidays. Staff and volunteers at the Fort Erie SPCA wish to thank the community for its generosity and support for 2015.

Health Corner

Are your teeth being too sensitive?

Tooth sensitivity is a very common condition that affects people of all ages. It is estimated that tooth sensitivity, or dentin hypersensitivity, affects approximately 15% of the general population. It is also most commonly seen in individuals aged 20-50 years of age. The causes of dentin hypersensitivity include:

- Excessive or forceful tooth brushing
- Gum disease
- Acid erosion
- Dental bleaching

In all of the above situations, the dentin of the tooth is exposed either by the receding of gums or loss of tooth structure. Dentin is a part of the tooth that has many small channels that run from the outside of the tooth towards the center where the nerve is contained. If dentin is exposed and these channels or tubules are open, changes in temperature, air pressure or even sugary substances can cause the nerve of the tooth to be stimulated. We experience this as pain. It is usually of short duration and is sharp in nature.



Dr. John Inigo

Treatment for sensitive teeth

The best treatment for dentin hypersensitivity is preventing the causes of sensitivity from occurring in the first place. Prevention includes:

- Using soft bristle toothbrush with a non-abrasive toothpaste
- Avoid consuming very acidic foods and beverages
- If you suffer from conditions such as GERD (acid reflux), see your doctor for treatment
- Avoid brushing your teeth immediately after consuming acidic foods
- Regular flossing coupled with regular visits to your dentist to prevent gum disease

If you have already encountered dentin hypersensitivity, there are two categories of treatment

that can be helpful, home treatment and in-office treatment. Home treatment includes brushing with a desensitizing toothpaste. In-office treatment includes:

- Application of a desensitizing agent on sensitive teeth
- Covering the exposed dentin with a filling material
- Use of dental lasers to desensitize the nerve
- Grafting gum tissue where it has receded

If you feel like your teeth are more sensitive to hot or cold foods or to certain types of food, see your dentist about what may be causing this. Your dentist can provide you with different options on how to treat this condition or, at the very least, guide you towards preventing any further damage to your teeth and gums.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry 905.871.2903 or Inigo Bertie Dentistry, 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

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LET'S GROW TOGETHER

A look back
at the week
in Niagara

Got an event idea?
Send event ideas to
mike.krkljus@sunmedia.ca

OUR NIAGARA



PenFinancial
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Penguins enjoy milder dip in charity event

40th Anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake event in support of Red Roof Retreat



Happy Holidays to you and yours

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Community Incentive Program brings new life to Jarvis Street

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Vince Salvatori thinks there is no better place to operate a business than in downtown Fort Erie.

That's why he leapt at the chance to take advantage of the Community Improvement Plan. The plan offers one-time financial incentives for business owners to construct apartments, and make facade and signage improvements that would attract new businesses and residents.

He is temporarily operating his business, Fate Salon and Spa, at another Jarvis Street location., until renovations at his building, 31 Jarvis St. are completed in the spring.

Salvatori views Bridgeburg as "a district of opportunity," which has been left untapped until recently.

With a strong Bridgeburg Business Improvement Association standing behind the business owners, and financial incentives in place to help business owners improve their buildings, Salvatori said the downtown area is slowly improving and attracting new people.

"I say this to all of my clients, if you provide a pro-

fessional business that serves clients with good products and a welcoming atmosphere, people will come to you."

Salvatori plans to "combine services in a one-stop destination" by adding 2,500 square-feet of finished commercial space and an improved facade. There will be room for the Bridgeburg Gentlemen's Shoppe to operate and The Atrium Spa will also move into the new building once it's opened. Clients will have access to a barber, a colour bar as well as both men's and women's styling and spa services.

"It will be great because we will have separate businesses operating under one roof," Salvatori said.

The renovation also calls for construction of an apartment upstairs in addition to one that is already there.

The renovation is something Salvatori said his father, Reno, always wanted to accomplish when he started the business, formerly known as Reno's, in 1967.

"I'm so excited about what's going on. I want to create a buzz for it and influence other business



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Business owner Vince Salvatori is looking forward to the completion of the renovation of Fate Salon on Jarvis Street. The new building will also house Atrium Spa, which will be relocated when the building is completed in the spring.

owners and new business to do the same," he said.

Valerie Fyke, owner of Atrium Spa, said she was "fortunate to be introduced" to Salvatori a year ago when he shared his revitalization plans with her.

"His infectious energy and passion for business opened my eyes to new possibilities and the adventure began," Fyke said.

As a lifelong resident of Fort Erie, Fyke is "hon-

oured for (her) team to be part of this downtown revitalization movement."

"Local business is the heart and soul of any community. Recognizing where our small business district began and supporting the historic and economic value is an important component in its future growth and development."

The CIP "was initiated in June 2014, for Bridgeburg and Ridgeway," said neighbourhood planner

Chris Millar.

"It's meant to get the people who were not ready financially or otherwise to make the commitment. The idea to offset costs."

Millar said the program has been "highly successful," with eight signed agreements already in the works for Bridgeburg, with more expected to be completed in 2016.

For each application received and approved, business owners must pay

50% of the cost and the Town of Fort Erie and the Niagara Region will each fund 25% of the cost up to a total of \$5,000.

Millar said a CIP is also in the works to help Stevensville business owners improve the downtown area along Stevensville Road.

For more information about the CIP call Millar at 905-871-1600 ext. 2503.

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Briefs

Driver treated for minor injuries

A 54-year-old female was transported to hospital and treated for minor injuries following a single-vehicle rollover Monday night.

Niagara Regional Police, paramedics and firefighters responded to a single-vehicle rollover on Point Abino Road North near College Road at 6:40 p.m.

NRP Const. Phil Gavin said the female, who was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt, lost control of the car, which went into the ditch and rolled onto its side.

The cause of the crash, that caused "significant damage to the car" was due to "weather-related conditions."

Between 6 p.m. Monday and 6 a.m. Tuesday, NRP responded to 16 crashes across Niagara. That number does not include the number of crashes that the Ontario Provincial Police responded to, Gavin said.

"The NRP is asking drivers to make extra time in their schedule so that they can slow down when they are driving in these weather and ensure increased stopping distance," he added.

Fire causes \$50,000 in damage

Damage is put at \$50,000 after a garage caught fire on Christmas Day. Firefighters were called to 2010 Jewson Rd. just after 7:30 p.m. to extinguish a fire that fully engulfed a detached garage outside of the house. That's when he called the fire department," said Fort Erie Fire Chief Larry Coplin.

"The homeowner was there. He heard some noises coming from outside and when he went outside, he found flames coming out of the detached garage outside of the house. That's when he called the fire department," said Fort Erie Fire Chief Larry Coplin.

"The cause of the fire is still under investigation but it's not suspicious at this point. We're looking at an issue with a wood burning stove. It's just not confirmed at this point. The fire destroyed the garage and caused exterior damage to the house. No one was injured.

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Celebrating the holidays



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Students from the Fort Erie Co-Operative Preschool collected about 30 unwrapped toys and donated them to the Kinsmen Gift of Love Program. The new toys were delivered just in time for children to open on Christmas morning.

Ridgeway Public School and Bertie Public School students collected toys and canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Approximately 50 toys and hundreds of canned goods were raised and distributed to families in need for Christmas. The students also celebrated the holidays by dressing up as Whos from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.



Ridgeway Public School and Bertie Public School students entertained residents at Gilmore Lodge with Christmas carols during the holidays.



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Garrison Road Public School students treated library patrons to holiday music at the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library on Friday, Dec. 11. Several of the students performed Christmas carols with the use of bells.



Celebrating the holidays



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Staff and students held a holiday open house on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Family and friends were invited to view the school's new outdoor classroom, as well as enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas carols.



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Garrison Road Public School students treated library patrons to holiday music at the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library on Friday, Dec. 11.

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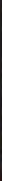
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Fort Erie Times

Hundreds of spectators will gather to watch as brave—possibly crazy—souls take the plunge into the icy waters of Lake Erie during the 7th annual Crystal Beach Polar Bear Dip and Chili Cook-Off Challenge at the Bertie Boat Club on Jan. 9.

The event begins at 11 a.m., with registration, followed by the dip at 1 p.m.

For anyone whose never taken the challenge before, but are contemplating participating in this year's dip, organizer Shelby Fear described it as "cold," "painful" and "exhilarating."

Swimmers must run into the water three times to qualify for their certificate.

The dip has become a tradition that's entertaining to watch. Swimmers have a variety of reasons for deciding to participate in the event. For some, it's a challenge, for others it's a good story to tell, or it's another item to cross off the bucket list.

"I was at the original Polar Bear Dip, which I still have my certificate for, in 1997," Fear said. "I was young and crazy."

New this year, Fear said a prize will be awarded for the swimmer with the best costume.

"A lot of people always come dressed up and it's a lot of fun. This year, we decided to create an award to honour that."

The Chili Challenge will warm up swimmers after the dip.

Admission to participate in the dip is \$5 and it includes chili. Anyone who doesn't want to participate in the dip can still have chili for \$5.

All proceeds from the event will support the Crystal Beach Business Improvement Association's projects.

Donations for Community Outreach Program Erie are also appreciated. There will also be a 50/50 draw with proceeds to support the Fort Erie SPCA.

sarah.ferguson@erietimes.ca

WHO: The Crystal Beach Improvement Association
WHAT: Host the 7th annual Crystal Beach Polar Bear Dip
WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The dip takes place at 1 p.m.
WHERE: The Bertie Boat Club, 1010 Point Abino Rd.



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■ DARING DIPS

Still cold enough for polar bears

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

Temperatures may be well above the seasonal norm, but the water is still really cold.

It's something experts advise to keep in mind this holiday season if you're looking to participate in a polar bear dip.

Brock professor and Canada Research chairman Stephen Cheung said while this year's weather will make the waiting around before and after a dip more pleasant than usual, people should still be aware of the cold body shock symptoms so they don't panic when they take the plunge.

"What happens for most people when they jump in, is you're going to end up having your heart rate go very high very rapidly and it's very difficult to control your breathing and you end up hyperventilating," Cheung said.

Though that might sound frightening, he added that it's generally a safe activity for most people.

"The big danger that can come from it is if you are

not ready or not experienced or not knowing that this can happen and you can start to panic," he said.

"For the vast majority of people I would say it's a safe and fun thing to do."

But there are exceptions. Cheung said that people with existing heart conditions, hypertension and high blood pressure especially, should steer clear of the activity.

Cheung also said that the right location can decrease the possibility of incidental dangers.

"The venue I would really recommend against is if you're up at the cottage and you decide to cut a hole in the ice and jump in that can be very dangerous," he said.

Cheung said that when your body starts to go into shock it can be very difficult to get yourself out of the water, especially if you are in a hole in the ice.

The safer bet is to go to organized polar bear dips.

The annual Crystal Beach Polar Bear Dip runs on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the big dip taking place at 1 p.m. at the Bertie Boating Club.



BOB TYMOSZYN/ST. CATHARINES STANDARD/QUI Agency

The third annual Polar Bear Dip was held Saturday at the public boat docks in Chippawa Ontario. Jan 4 2014

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Deal hunters out in full force

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

There was no way Kyla Stewart was going to sleep in on the day after Christmas.

"We woke up at 5 a.m. and drove out here," said the 21-year-old Hamilton resident on Boxing Day at the Canada One Factory Outlets in Niagara Falls.

"Coach had 50 per cent off and I got a new purse. We're shopping and then we're going for all-you-can-eat buffet."

After getting money on Christmas, Stewart, like so many others on Saturday, went deal hunting.

"People give you money (for Christmas) because they don't know what to get you, so you can go and shop for things you like after on Boxing Day," she said.

After closing on Christmas Day, malls and stores reopened to a sea of customers Saturday morning.

Parking was hard to come by at the outlet mall on Lundy's Lane early Saturday afternoon.

The parking lots at Niagara Square and the Walmart plaza in Niagara Falls were packed with vehicles, however, open spots could be found.

"This is the second mall we came to," said Niagara Falls resident Lisa Hawken, moments after finding a parking spot at Canada

One Factory Outlets. "The first one (Outlet Collection at Niagara in Niagara-on-the-Lake), we couldn't even get a spot. It's crazy."

Hal Hamilton stayed outside while his wife was inside looking for Boxing Day bargains.

"I'm just out for the walk," said Hamilton, who was born and raised in Niagara Falls, but who now lives in Ottawa.

"We're here visiting family and we just wanted to go for a walk. This was one place we went. I don't go into the stores or anything."

Elsewhere in Niagara, the parking lot at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines was flush with vehicles, however, sections of open spots were visible.

That mall's "Boxing Week Sale" started on Saturday, with up to 75 per cent off at select stores and merchandise.

In north St. Catharines, Costco and Fairview Mall parking lots and ring roads were steady, but flowing well by late morning Saturday.

Carly Rucpic, a spokeswoman for Outlet Collection at Niagara owner Ivanhoe Cambridge, said bigger Boxing Day crowds are expected to be bigger at that complex in Niagara-on-the-Lake than last year.

This, "judging by the huge increase we saw in Black Friday traffic and



RAY SPITERI/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

It wasn't easy to find a parking spot at Canada One Factory Outlets on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls on Boxing Day.

the strong holiday season we have had so far," said Rucpic.

"The beautiful weather has also been a great help to us and hopefully it will hold up for Boxing Day to bring in even more shoppers."

Jen Cherry, general

manager of Best Buy on Vansickle Road in St. Catharines, was preparing for the shopping sale frenzy by 4 a.m.

As per usual, some shoppers started lining up outside the store after midnight, with prospective

shoppers thronging outside by 6 a.m.'s start.

"As of that opening, it was one of the biggest lineups I've seen," said Cherry, who also noted this year's closing of Canada's Future Shops, including the one in Niagara Falls, as a possible

factor for drawing in more people. "The lineup when we opened was wrapped around the store."

with files from Don Fraser,
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Creating holiday-inspired crafts



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Arts Council hosted a Christmas Art Camp on Dec. 21, 22, and 23, which saw approximately 12 children create paintings, drawings, and other arts and crafts at the Bell Tower Sanctuary.

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Volunteers join Lions club to give back to the community

ANNIE PASQUARELLO
Special to The Times

Since 1917, Lions International has been servicing and supporting local community projects across the world. Fort Erie's chapter was founded in 1927 and has been doing the same.

The organization recently welcomed Vanessa Taylor, Vera Ebel and Linda Scott at an emotional induction ceremony. One of the major projects for the Lions Club is sight conservation when they started helping with Helen Keller's crusade in 1925.

Ninety years later in Fort Erie the induction ceremony was done by candlelight due to a power failure that night. The women say it was a very moving night listening to the words of Helen Keller and her message of sight loss while having their own difficulty being able to see.

Each of the new inductees joined the Lions Club for different reasons, but the common goal is giving back to the

community. Ebel and Scott recently moved to Fort Erie and wanted to get involved in the community through volunteering.

"I used to do senior volunteer work and wanted to continue to do volunteer work here in Fort Erie. Once I started helping with the Lions and learned about the history, they do so much more than I realized," says Scott.

The Lions Club of Fort Erie supports many causes from Canine Vision Canada, various health charities, youth programs, seniors programs, fundraisers for community support organizations and have been sponsors of the Fort Erie Air Cadets since 1943.

A former air cadet herself, Ebel Taylor says she wanted to give back to the community and join the Lions.

"One I found out they allowed females to join I decided it was time to return the favour," she says. "It's important to give back to our own communities."

Six years ago the Fort Erie Lions started allowing women to join and have been expanding ever since.

Wayne Mills, president of Fort Erie Lions Club, says although it can be difficult to get younger people to join the Lions, they do seem to be gaining membership.

"People see what is being done and have a passion for it. We have members with a wide variety of backgrounds and even after retirement people still like to use their skills," he says.

The new members also enjoy the social aspect of joining the organization as there are many opportunities to meet people and the club is a welcoming environment.

With countless charities and causes the Lions club supports, people may get worried about where the money is actually going, but it goes right back into the community and where it says it is.

"We see firsthand how the money is dispersed and different aspects of how the money is dispersed. It is more one-on-one assistance," says Scott. We know are touching individuals in



ANNIE PASQUARELLO/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Vanessa Taylor, Linda Scott and Vera Ebel are new Fort Erie Lions Club members. The women were inducted at a ceremony in Fort Erie.

money is dispersed and different aspects of how the money is dispersed. It is more one-on-one assistance," says Scott. We know are touching individuals in

the community."

The Fort Erie Lions Club holds its meetings the second and fourth Thursdays each month at 6:30 p.m. To learn more about the

Club or to get involved they can be contacted through phone at 905-991-0711. They are located at the Fort Erie Lions Seniors Complex at 265 High St.

No joke: Province of Ontario wants your tax refund

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Over the holidays, people are often asked to help the less fortunate.

Apparently, you can add the Government of Ontario to the list.

Treasury Board chairwoman Deb Matthews recently asked Ontarians to donate their income tax refunds to help pay off the provincial debt.

"It sounds like an April Fools joke," said Bob Taylor, of St. Catharines. "If they had a better handle on their spending, I would be more willing to help out more than I do now."

"They mismanage the money they have. They need to show some discipline and stop looking for handouts."

For the 2014-15 fiscal year, Ontario's deficit rose to \$10.9 billion, increasing its debt to \$281.4 billion, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce said in a news release. As a result, about nine per cent of the province's total spending goes toward interest on its debt.

The interest payments are more than the province spends on colleges, universities and training programs for the unemployed combined,

thus the appeal for deficit-busting donations.

Nether St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley nor Niagara-West Glanbrook Progressive Conservative MPP Tim Hudak could be reached for comment Monday.

"Oh, that's a good one," said Eric Priestly of St. Catharines, of the refund donation proposal.

"I don't agree with that at all, but we need to fix what is broken first. If you have a complaint, you can't get anyone to follow up on it. I have lived here a long time, and I just shake my head in disbelief."

"Look at what we are doing with these people coming from Syria. We are going to be giving them \$5,000 a month and low rentals. I want us to spend our money helping our people here first."

"You have all these engineers and commissions working for the government. They are making \$500,000 and they don't do anything. You talk about goofing off. It's not right."

"On top of that, we are building all these monster police stations in Niagara. The government never changes."

Interestingly, Matthews



REUTERS

The Ontario provincial budget documents lay on a desk as a member of the opposition holds a leaflet that reads "Debt, Deficit, Taxes" at Queens Park in Toronto.

said Ontario collected \$135,289 in voluntary tax return donations last year. Approximately 36,000 people donated an average of \$3.75, some via a box that is printed on income tax forms.

"It's an unusual thing for someone to do, but I would

encourage any Ontarian who wants to make a contribution to feel free to do so," Matthews told Postmedia recently.

Derek Churm, who was enjoying a coffee at the Fairview Mall food court Monday, said he would consider the idea.

"I might donate a portion



MIKE BEITZ/THE BEACON HERALD

Deputy premier Deb Matthews at an event in Stratford recently. Mike Beitz/Postmedia Network

of it, but I don't save a lot of money — I rely on my refund," he said. "If there were a spot on the income tax form to donate to help reduce the deficit, I would consider it."

"I had a chance to lower the income tax deductions on my cheques, but I didn't do that because I like getting that bun-

dles of money. "I can't see many people doing it. I think most people have plans for that money. It's not a slush fund for the government to use. The government wastes a lot of money, but people have a short memory."

Bill Sawchuk@torontomedia.ca

Joyful songs



JOSEPH BURD/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Students at Stevensville Public School entertained family and friends during a Christmas concert held on Dec. 15.

Students spread holiday cheer



JOSEPH BURD/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

St. Philomena Catholic Elementary School students entertained family and friends during a Christmas concert Dec. 15 at the Fort Erie Leisurplex.

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Sports Briefs

Junior B hockey sked

Caledonia at Fort Erie, Saturday, Jan. 2, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Caledonia, Friday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.; Niagara Falls at Fort Erie, Saturday, Jan. 9, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Pelham, Friday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Welland at Fort Erie, Saturday, Jan. 16, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at St. Catharines, Friday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.; Ancaster at Fort Erie, Saturday, Jan. 23, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Thorold, Thursday, Jan. 28, 7:07 p.m.

Junior B hockey standings

Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League Golden Horseshoe Conference standings as of Tuesday, Dec. 29: Caledonia, 27 wins, one loss, one tie for a total of 57 points; Ancaster, 19-8-4, 44 points; St. Catharines, 20-7-2, 43 points; Niagara Falls, 18-19-4, 38 points; Fort Erie, 14-16-1, 31 points; Welland, 11-14-4, 27 points; Thorold, 11-18-1, 26 points; Pelham, 1-26-0, six points.



SUDOKU

3					7			
	5			6			7	
8	9						1	5
			9				8	
		1		5		2		6
9	3		1					
	8				3	1		
1	7	4					5	

Level: Advanced

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8	5	6	9	6	7	2	2	1
6	7	1	8	2	2	9	9	5
2	2	9	5	1	8	6	6	6
9	6	2	8	5	2	1	6	7
6	8	7	1	2	6	5	2	9
5	1	7	7	6	9	2	6	8
1	2	8	6	9	6	7	5	2
4	6	2	8	6	5	9	1	7
2	9	5	7	4	1	6	8	3

ANSWER:

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Brick for person who vandalized property
 A huge brick for the lunatic who, on Sunday, Nov. 29 at midnight, vandalized private property and cars in the neighbourhood of Emerick Avenue, Central Avenue and Phipps Street. I personally had over \$500 worth of damage to my car; a broken windshield and a badly dented hood of the car. The perpetrator was caught by the police that night. He actually had to be tasered. There has not been one word in the local newspapers regarding this incident. Many other people were affected by this person's destruction, not only me. As they say, what goes around comes around. I hope he gets his dues. Happy holidays. Thank you for the added expense.

Bouquet for good samaritan
 A bouquet for the person who levelled our sign on Gorham Road. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230 thanks you.

Bouquet for a wife
 On a Friday night, my wife greeted me after work with a huge smile and glass of Gin and Tonic on the rocks. The best part, she is not even ask me if she can buy something for herself. What a wonderful wife to start the weekend.

Bouquet for volunteer drivers
 A bouquet for the Cancer Society's volunteer drivers. These dedicated individuals drive cancer patients to and from

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their treatments at the St. Catharines Hospital and Juravinski in Hamilton. They drive endless miles, sometimes even going back and forth to Hamilton twice in one day. The world needs more selfless people like you.

help. **Brick for careless drivers**

A brick for the people that don't use turning signals when they make lane changes. It's the busiest time of the year and it's really hard to stay safe when people are so careless behind the wheel.

Bouquet for Christmas
 A bouquet for Christmas. I love the bright lights, the good food and the good company. No matter what you celebrate, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Bouquet for a husband
 A bouquet for my husband for getting up early with me on Christmas eve to begin preparing the turkey. It was a lot of chopping, frying and stuffing the turkey but we managed to do it. I couldn't have done it without your help. When most guys would sit on the couch and leave their wives to do it themselves, you got right in there to assist.

Brick for a pet owner

A brick for the pet owner that let's his dog poop on my lawn. I just want to tell you that it's disgusting. And with the warm weather, the snow isn't there to hide your dog's steaming piles of dog doo. Take two seconds, bend over and pick it up. If you need a bag, knock on my door. I'll be happy to give you one if you need it.

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Skating with Santa



From left, coach Cheryl Hebbourn skated with Santa.



From left, Kourtney Edmunds, Ashley Backshall and Maddie Strom enjoyed the club's annual family skate.



From left, skaters Maddie and Marian skated with other club members during the Skating with Santa event.

THE FORT ERIE FIGURE SKATING CLUB held its annual family skate with Santa on Dec. 20. The club hosts a Bring a Friend Day on Jan. 3 and 5 leading up to new registration for Canscate. Canscate is offered on Sundays at the Crystal Ridge Arena from 3:40 to 4:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays at the Fort Erie Leisureplex from 5:25 to 6:15 p.m. Registration will be held Jan. 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Leisureplex. For more information, visit the website at www.fefsc.ca or phone 905-871-5075.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Natalie Spooner
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Remembering our Fort Erie Minor Baseball League teams

Here is a team photo of the 1961 OLV number 1 baseball team, which was taken on the first base side of the Bowen Road Park diamond.

Our Lady of Victory School had two teams play in the Fort Erie Minor Baseball League with weekly games played at Bowen Road Park and the Sugar Bowl diamond. The 1961 team consisted of coaches Midge and Mary Stapleton; first base: Steve Stapleton; third base: Roger Simon; shortstop: Brian 'Bubby' Stapleton; second base: David 'Doc' Stapleton; bat boy: Randy Stapleton; catcher: Jim Drury; pitcher: Garry Kline; infielder: Mike Johnston; infielder: Wayne Legroulx; outfielder: Ricky Valvo; outfielder: Jamie Beaul; absent from the photo is outfielder: Claude Willis.

Sisters Stacey and Kerry Stapleton were always cheering from the bleachers.

Three years later, in 1964, Garry Kline and Jim Drury were team members on the Niagara

District Single A Bantam All-Star Championship team and OBA Semi-Finalists, coached by Bert Pomeroy.

The bat boy in the photo, Randy Stapleton, would later play second base on the 1975 OBA Provincial Juvenile Championship team coached by Dennis Prow, Red Winger, and Doug Branton.

You may not recognize the name Brian Stapleton in the photo, but you would know him as 'Bubby'. Apparently, when Mary brought him home from the hospital after his birth, his brother Steve was just beginning to talk and Mary told him that "this is your baby brother." Steve pronounced it 'Bubby' and this has stuck throughout the years.

Interestingly, 10 of the players and coaches in the picture lived in the North End on Jarvis Street and most were introduced to golf at Rio Vista Golf Course. Gabe Fretette coached the OLV number two team comprised mostly of players from the West and South Ends

of town. The league was made up of teams sponsored by their respective elementary schools and included Rose Seaton, Whittemore, Torrance, and Douglas St. schools as well as the two OLV teams. Some of the outstanding pitchers in the league besides Kline were Doug Rombough, Tim Burke, and Bob Keenan. All of the OLV number one players would agree that the highlight of the baseball season was the pizza party at Rosie Curletto's, Garry Kline's grandmother.

Bubby Stapleton excelled in Fort Erie minor baseball, football and hockey and at the age of 18 attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island on a hockey scholarship from 1970-1974. In 1974 Bubby attended NHL training camp with the Washington Capitals and from 1974-1977 played on their minor league affiliate, the Dayton Gems, in the International Hockey League. In 1976 the Gems won the Turner Cup as Championships of the I.H.L. During that

season Bubby was called up to the Capitals and played one game with them – the thrill of his life! He also married Helen Whiting in May of 1975 and they have a son, Jordan, and a daughter, Jody, as well as one grandson, Teeg.

Bubby retired from professional hockey in 1977 and went on to earn a M. Ed. at the University of Minnesota. Bubby kept in touch with many Fort Erie friends and directed the Teen Ranch Summer Hockey Camp from 1980-1985. Fort Erie

Wall of Fame goaltender, Lynn Zimmerman worked with the goaltenders at the camp for many summers and a large group of Fort Erie minor hockey players attended The Ranch hockey camp. In 1985 Bubby went to the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto and earned a B.Ed. before working as a teacher and administrator in Brampton / Mississauga for 27 years before retiring in 2011. Bubby and Helen retired to Bradenton, Florida for three years from 2012-

2015, then returned to live in their hometown of Fort Erie in July of 2015.

Today Bubby enjoys playing golf and rooting for the Montreal Canadiens. As a young boy his favourite hockey player was Boom Boom Geoffron and favourite baseball player was Willie Mays.

This is the Heritage Arts Legacy's first article of local sports families and we hope these will bring back fond memories.

Vern Benner for the Heritage Arts Legacy.

Heritage Arts Legacy of Fort Erie

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Reilly Kennedy-Anzovino

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What though the radiance which was
once so bright

Be now forever taken from our sight,
Though nothing can bring back the
hour

Of splendour in the
grass, of glory in the
flower,

We will grieve not, rather
find

Strength in what re-
mains behind;

Sadly missed
Pappa, Nanny, Dad and
Mom and Brother Kain



SHIRLEY E. PORTER

January 4, 2014

SAM POLETTA

December 30, 2013

To my beautiful wife and wonderful brother.

It's been two long years
since the good Lord took you home.

You're both free of pain
but things will never be the same.

Every day that goes by,
I think of you and miss you.

Thank you for all the memories
and the great times you gave us all.

See you at the Pier on the 3rd.

Love always, your husband and brother.

LILBOURNE, Margaret Ann (nee Provins) - At age 77, passed away peacefully at her home in Brantford. Daughter of the late Elizabeth & Laurence Provins, sister to the late Laurence Provins Jr. and to Elaine Benner. Loving Aunt to her many nieces and nephews. Survived by step children Howard, Roxanne and Deborah. A memorial service to celebrate Margaret's life will be held at The Outpost Ministry Church, 11 Aberdeen Ave, Brantford at a later date.



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Coming Events

Coming Events

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A Power of Attorney for Personal Care allows you to appointment someone to make personal care decisions on your behalf (including medical treatment, diet, housing, clothing, hygiene, and safety). You can name the same person(s) as your attorney for both Property and Personal Care, or you may decide to appoint different people for each.



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Ask The Expert

- Q.** What are the biggest problems facing small business today?

A. Good question for the times. Managing cash flow is always on the top of my list. Next I find small business lack the proper information to make good decisions. Much is written today about SWOT analysis, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Making good decisions involves knowing your costs, the market, your customers, your competition, the labour market, the economy etc. Having and knowing how to use good information increases the probability of success. Too many business decisions are made on hunches and guesses. I have found that an organization like the BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada, who has a consulting branch, have the expertise to assist any small business operate more efficiently and profitably. Also, the local Economic Development & Tourism Corp. has information to assist with analysis. I find that success or failure often hinges on a few good or bad decisions.



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ASK THE EXPERT

- Q.** What is my break-even point?

A. Simply put, the break-even point is the amount of dollars your business should generate monthly in gross sales to cover all your operating costs, exclusive of profits. Knowing what your sales should be to break even is very important - because if you don't know where you are, what motivates you to reach a goal. Your starting point is to know your approximate gross profit margin. The next step is to list all of your monthly overhead expenses. A simple example based on overhead costs (staff wages, freight, rent, repairs, utilities, etc.) of \$5,000 plus owner's wages of \$2,500 would be as follows:

Gross sales needed for the month	\$21,400
Overhead costs	15,900
Owner's Wages	2,500
Total Overhead	7,500
Break even point (7,500/35%100)	\$21,400

The business has to generate \$21,400 in retail sales to cover all costs. If the profit margin decreases, or expenses increase, a loss will occur.

For more information contact:



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